



*Decision Memo*  
**Range Improvement Projects on the Heber-Kamas Ranger District – 2019**  
*Heber-Kamas Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest*  
*Wasatch County, Utah*  
**November 2019**

---

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This document details my decision regarding the proposal from multiple permittees to address necessary improvements to their allotments.

**Project number in the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System database:** 57161

**General Location:** All projects are located in various locations off Highway 40 in Heber City, Utah and off of Highway 35 in Kamas, Utah.

## **2.0 PROPOSED ACTION**

### **Current Creek Allotment:**

The Heber-Kamas District on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache is planning to re-route 1 existing fence. Installation of this fence will contain livestock within the pastures as scheduled for use and improve livestock distribution as well as forage utilization patterns across the allotment.

### **South Low Pass Fence:**

The South Low Pass Fence range improvement project would involve re-routing the existing fence to follow the road instead of the riparian area. The fence re-route is along FS road #156 Low Pass Road for approximately .25 miles. The current fence is located in a riparian area and it is hard to maintain. The reroute would allow for a better fence to keep livestock in the correct pasture and allow for easier maintenance. Fence construction would be four strand barbed wire let down fence with metal t-posts and include a wire gate.

### **Nobletts Allotment:**

The Heber-Kamas District on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache is planning to construct a new handling facility on the Nobletts Allotment. The primary purpose of this handling facility is to be able to effectively sort livestock at the beginning and end of grazing season.

### **Nobletts Sheep Corral:**

The Nobletts Sheep Corral range improvement project would involve the construction of a new handling facility to accommodate the 793 ewe/lambs on the allotment. There is currently not a permanent corral and permittee has been leasing property across Highway 35 from the Nobletts Snowmobile parking lot and bringing in temporary corrals at the beginning and end of the grazing season. The land that has been leased in the past is being sold, therefore the permittee needs to find another area to load and unload livestock. Before the snowmobile parking lot was built there was a corral in that location but it was removed for construction of the parking lot. Permittee plans to construct the corral on the East side of the parking lot where there is an existing buck and pole fence. The corral would be 200ft by 250ft. The corral needs to be accessible by semi-truck to load livestock to and from the allotment. Proposed corral

site is located right along Highway 35. Corral would be constructed with a combination of wood, treated posts, metal t-posts, hog wire and steel gates.

**West Fork Allotment:**

The Heber-Kamas District on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache is planning to develop one livestock water system which would include 1 headbox, ¼ mile of pipeline. The primary purpose of this water developments is to provide water to the allotment, which will improve livestock distribution. Improved livestock distribution will improve utilization on the allotment as well as reduce impacts in high use areas such as riparian areas.

Hoy Hollow Waterline:

The Hoy Hollow Waterline was proposed and approved in 2017. It consisted of a new headbox, poly pipe and two troughs to be installed along Chevron Pipeline. The waterline was partially completed with one trough still left to be installed. However, there is not enough water from the spring to fill the troughs. The current poly pipe goes near to another water source. Permittee plans to develop that seep with a new headbox and connect it with the existing waterline. Waterline would use 1 ½ poly pipe and laid on the ground for approximately ¼ mile to connect to the existing waterline. Movement of water into areas where water is limited will improve livestock distribution and forage available to livestock.

**Wolf Creek Allotment:**

The Heber-Kamas District on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache is planning to construct a new handling facility on the Wolf Creek Allotment. The primary purpose of this handling facility is to be able to effectively sort livestock at the beginning and end of grazing season.

Wolf Creek Sheep Corral:

The Wolf Creek Sheep Corral range improvement project would involve the construction of a new handling facility to accommodate the 1,100 ewe/lambs on the allotment along with 1,130 ewe/lambs from the neighboring South Fork Provo Allotment. Currently, permittees are using the Soapstone corral in the spring and a temporary corral on the FS# 174 Silver Meadows road in the fall. The Soapstone corral is extremely difficult to use due to the high recreation use in the area. There are narrow roads which make getting a semi-truck to the corral difficult. Permittee plans to construct the corral along the Silver Meadows road just off of Highway 35. The corral would be 200ft by 250ft. The corral needs to be accessible by semi-truck to load livestock to and from the allotment (see attached corral design). Corral would be constructed with a combination of wood, treated posts, metal t-posts, hog wire and steel gates.

**East Daniels Allotment:**

The Heber-Kamas District on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache is planning to construct 1 livestock water system which would consist of a 40ft by 40ft by 5ft ponds. The primary purpose of these water developments is to provide water to the allotment, which will improve livestock distribution. Improved livestock distribution will improve utilization on the allotment as well as reduce impacts in high use areas such as riparian areas

Three Forks Spring:

Three Forks Spring can be located from 1.5 miles up East Three Forks Canyon. Currently, Three Forks Spring is a developed spring with an old trough and pipe. Permittees will remove the old trough and pipe

and construct a 40ft by 40ft by 5ft pond with heavy equipment such as backhoe or mini-excavator. Equipment will be walked in from the bottom of the canyon. A small trail for equipment will need to be made for access during construction and then after completion of the pond the trail will be closed up to prevent atvs and other recreational vehicles from using it. Depending on weather, construction should be completed in a week. The pond would require less maintenance than a trough and would improve water availability in the area.

## **2.1 Design Criteria**

- South Low Pass Fence should be offset from the road 10ft from the top of the cut.
- Coordinate with UDOT to ensure proper visual distance and turning radius is available for semi-trucks at the existing parking lot.
- Hoy Hollow Waterline should fence around the headbox and install wildlife ramps in the troughs.
- All equipment used on projects should be cleaned of debris before entering Forest Service lands.

## **3.0 DECISION AND RATIONALE**

My decision is to authorize the proposed action along with the required design criteria as described in section 2, above.

Based on environmental analysis and input from an interdisciplinary team of Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest resource specialists, I have determined that this action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. In particular, this action falls under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(9) - Implementation or modification of minor management practices to improve allotment condition or animal distribution when an allotment management plan is not yet in place.

We consider resource conditions when determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action exist that warrant further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. As per Chapter 30, Section 31.2 of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, the mere presences of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. I have concluded that there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative environmental effect.

## **4.0 SCOPING**

The project was entered into the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System database and posted to the forest website. The project was also reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists.

## **5.0 FOREST PLAN AND LEGAL CONSISTENCY**

I find that the proposed action is fully consistent with the 2003 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Uinta National Forest, as well as in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Specifically; the National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; Clean Water Act; Congressional designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas; Inventoried Roadless Areas; Research Natural

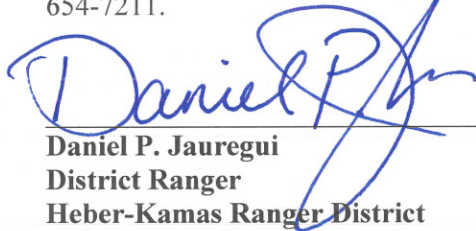
Areas; Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, or historical properties or areas; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898).

## **6.0 OBJECTION OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION**

My decision is not subject to administrative appeal or objection, as outlined in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and the Agricultural Act of 2014. This decision may be implemented immediately.

## **7.0 CONTACT PERSON**

For additional information about the project, contact Amber Helmus at [amber.helmus@usda.gov](mailto:amber.helmus@usda.gov) or 435-654-7211.

  
**Daniel P. Jauregui**  
**District Ranger**  
**Heber-Kamas Ranger District**

11/15/19  
**Date**

---

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

---